

Abstract of the Invention

A method for diagnosing an HIV-2 (LAV-II) infection and a kit containing reagents for the same is disclosed. These reagents include cDNA probes which are capable of hybridizing to at least a portion of the genome of HIV-2. In one embodiment, the DNA probes are capable of hybridizing to the entire genome of HIV-2. These reagents also include polypeptides encoded by some of these DNA sequences.

1. A method for diagnosing an HIV-2 (LAV-II) infection, comprising the steps of: (a) obtaining a sample of a patient suspected of having an HIV-2 infection; (b) extracting nucleic acid from the sample; (c) hybridizing the extracted nucleic acid with a cDNA probe capable of hybridizing to at least a portion of the genome of HIV-2; and (d) detecting the hybridization product.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the cDNA probe is capable of hybridizing to the entire genome of HIV-2.

3. A kit for diagnosing an HIV-2 (LAV-II) infection, comprising: (a) a cDNA probe capable of hybridizing to at least a portion of the genome of HIV-2; and (b) a polypeptide encoded by some of the DNA sequences of the HIV-2 genome.

4. The kit of claim 3, wherein the cDNA probe is capable of hybridizing to the entire genome of HIV-2.

5. The kit of claim 3, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a DNA sequence of the HIV-2 genome.